

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Altrincham.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Altrincham.

Your Worship and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Eighth Annual Report of the Municipal Borough of Altrincham dealing with the health of the Borough for the year 1944. It is indicated that the Report be prepared on the lines of that for 1943.

With the end of the war in Europe certain restrictions imposed originally on the grounds of security are now removed. An Annual Report more comprehensive than those of recent years is now presented, but on account of the need for the economy in the use of paper it will not attain the proportions of pre-war Reports.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

1. General Statistics.

Area	3,519 acres
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	36,690
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944)	11,355
Rateable Value (at 31st December 1944)	£305,428
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,246.

The Borough of Altrincham is situated in the northern part of Mid-Cheshire, 8 miles South-West from the centre of the City of Manchester. Altrincham is the shopping centre of a populous area and a public market is held on Tuesday and Saturday of each week. There are numerous engineering works and factories within the Borough.

2. Vital Statistics.

Births.

The number of Births registered in, and allocated to, the Borough of Altrincham in 1944 is 680 (Males 326, Females 354)
Still Births number 11 (Males 5, Females 6).

Legitimate Births	655 (M. 313, F. 342)
Illegitimate Births	25 (M. 13, F. 12)

Still Births.

Legitimate Births	10 (M. 5, F. 5)
Illegitimate Births	1 (M. 0, F. 1)

representing a Live Birth Rate of 18.5 per 1,000 of the population and a Still Birth Rate of 0.29 per 1,000 of the population. In 1938 these Rates were 16.4 and 0.69 respectively.

The illegitimate Births number 25, 3.6 per cent of the total. In 1943 this percentage was 5.3 and in 1938 it was 3.5.

Deaths,

The total number of Deaths corrected for Outward and Inward Transfer is 387 (Males 205, Females 182) representing a Death Rate of 10.5 per

1,000 of the population. The number of Deaths of Infants under one year of age is 22 (Males 11, Females 11), all legitimate, equivalent to an Infantile Mortality Rate of 32 per 1,000 Live Births. Of these Infantile Deaths 14 are attributed to premature birth, congenital malformation etc.

The Illegitimate Infantile Mortality is Nil.

Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infantile Mortality Rates showing comparison between Altrincham and other areas.

Area.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of population.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
	Live Births	Still Births		
England & Wales	17.6	0.50	11.6	46
126 County B. and Great Towns	20.3	0.64	13.7	52
148 Smaller Towns (25,000-50,000)	20.9	0.61	12.4	44
Altrincham - 1938	16.4	0.69	12.0	60
Altrincham - 1944	18.5	0.29	10.5	32

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0	(M. 0, F. 0)
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	(M. 1, F. 0)
Scarlet Fever	0	(M. 0, F. 0)
Whooping Cough	1	(M. 0, F. 1)
Diphtheria	1	(M. 0, F. 1)
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	12	(M. 8, F. 4)
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	0	(M. 0, F. 0)
Syphilitic Disease	4	(M. 2, F. 2)
Influenza	3	(M. 2, F. 1)
Measles	0	(M. 0, F. 0)
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	(M. 0, F. 1)
Acute Infective Encephalitis	0	(M. 0, F. 0)
Cancer of Mouth and Oesophagus in Males and of Uterus in Females	4	(M. 2, F. 2)
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	12	(M. 9, F. 3)
Cancer of Breast	3	(M. 0, F. 3)
Cancer of all other Sites	39	(M. 19, F. 20)
Diabetes	6	(M. 3, F. 3)
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	50	(M. 26, F. 24)
Heart Disease	116	(M. 56, F. 60)
Other Diseases of Vascular System	5	(M. 3, F. 2)
Bronchitis	24	(M. 14, F. 10)
Pneumonia	15	(M. 8, F. 7)
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	(M. 5, F. 1)
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	(M. 4, F. 2)
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1	(M. 0, F. 1)
Appendicitis	0	(M. 0, F. 0)
Other Digestive Diseases	3	(M. 2, F. 1)
Nephritis	7	(M. 3, F. 4)
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	0	(M. 0, F. 0)
Other Maternal Causes	0	(M. 0, F. 0)
Premature Birth	4	(M. 1, F. 3)
Congenital Malformations etc.	10	(M. 7, F. 3)
Suicide	5	(M. 3, F. 2)
Road Traffic Accidents	4	(M. 1, F. 3)
Other Violent Causes	9	(M. 6, F. 3)

All other Causes	35	(M. 20, F. 15)
All Causes	387	(M. 205, F. 182)

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1944.

Live Births	680	(M. 326, F. 354)
(Legitimate)	655	(M. 313, F. 342)
(Illegitimate)	25	(M. 13, F. 12)

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 18.5

Still Births 11 (M. 5, F. 6)

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (Live and
Still Births) 15.9

Deaths 387 (M. 205, F. 182)

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident
population 10.5

Death from Puerperal Causes
(Headings of the Registrar-General's Short List 29 and 30)

	<u>Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births.</u>
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	0
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births 32
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate
Births 33
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate
Births 0

Deaths from Cancer (All ages) 58
Deaths from Measles (All ages) 0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages) 1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

1. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

During 1944, 159 specimens were reported on by the Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine of the University of Manchester.

102 Throat Swabs were examined for Diphtheria of which 5 were positive.

2 Agglutination Tests for Typhoid Fever.

1 Specimen of Sputum.

3 Samples of Cerebro-spinal Fluid.

29 Swabs for Haemolytic streptococci.

1 Swab for Vincent's Angina.

1 Sample of Faeces for Typhoid and Dysentery.

6 Samples of Milk, Methylene Blue Test

14 Samples of Milk for Bacterial Count.

Sterile throat swabs, blood collection outfits, diphtheria antitoxin and prophylactic material are kept at the Town Hall for use, within the Borough, by medical practitioners.

During 1944, 145 specimens of sputum were bacteriologically examined for Tubercle Bacilli by the Public Health Laboratory of the County of Chester. Of these 13 were found to be positive.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The Corporation of Altrincham maintains 3 well equipped ambulance vehicles. This service is free to residents of the Borough to any hospital or Nursing Home within 10 miles of Altrincham.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There is an efficient District Nursing Association in the Borough affiliated with the Queen's Nurses' Institute.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics, including Clinics solely for diagnosis or consultation.

There are two Child Welfare Centres.

1. Mountlands Welfare Centre.

3 Sessions are held each week, 1 on Mondays and 2 on Wednesdays.

1 Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

1 Post-Natal Clinic is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

2. Park Road Welfare Centre, Timperley.

4 Sessions are held each week, 2 on Tuesdays and 2 on Thursdays.

Medical Consultations were as follows:-

		<u>Under 1</u> <u>year of age.</u>	<u>Over 1</u> <u>year of age.</u>
Mountlands Welfare Centre	892	566	326
(M.486, F.406)			
Park Road Welfare Centre	853	451	402
(M.433, F.420)			
Total (M.919, F.826)	1745	1017	728

Ante-Natal Clinic.

The number of examinations at the Clinic was 296, 133 expectant mothers having attended.

Post-Natal Clinic.

There were 63 attendances.

(e) Hospitals - Public and Voluntary.

There has been no change

2. Maternity and Child Welfare.

(1) Midwifery and Maternity Services.

It is expected that all pregnant women, not under the care of a medical practitioner, shall attend, accompanied by the midwife of their choice, at the Ante-Natal Clinic.

(11) Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children.

Since April 1943 a War-time Day Nursery has been established at Walney, Gaskell Road, Altrincham, for the care of children whose mothers are employed in war industries. During 1944, 9734 attendances are recorded.

(111) Health Visitors.

No change.

(1V) Child Life Protection.

Under the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act 1939, children are visited until they attain the age of 9 years.

(V) Arrangements for Dental, Orthopaedic, etc. cases.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held each week at the Altrincham General Hospital under the charge of an orthopaedic specialist. Many cases are referred to this Clinic from the Child Welfare Centres. Facilities are available for treatment by Ultra Violet Rays.

Dental Treatment is afforded to expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years whose family incomes entitle them to it.

Home Helps.

In April 1944 the work of the Voluntary Home Help Society in Altrincham was taken over by the Maternity & Child Welfare Committee of the Corporation. Two Home Helps are employed and a third is on call when required. Up to the 31st December 1944, 32 cases had been attended, 11 cases were outstanding on the Register for 1945.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

ANNUAL REPORT 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report of the work of this department from 1st January to 31st December 1944.

Number of live births notified.	M.327	F.349	676
" " stillbirths "	M. 3	F. 5	8
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	Total notified.		684
			<hr/>
	Total notified during 1943,		593

Visits by Senior Health Visitor.

Number of first visits to Infants under 1 year,	316
" " subsequent " " " " " "	936
Total visits to children 1 to 5 years,	1075
Number of first visits to expectant mothers,	73
" " subsequent " " " " "	62
" " Infant Life Protection Visits,	12
" " Adoption Act visits,	34
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Total visits.	2508
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Total visits during 1943,	2656

Visits by Second Health Visitor.

Number of first visits to Infants under 1 year,	326
" " subsequent " " " " " "	919
Total visits to children 1 to 5 years,	1117
Number of first visits to expectant mothers,	35
" " subsequent " " " " "	50
" " Infant Life Protection visits,	7
" " Adoption Act visits,	51
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Total visits.	2505
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Total visits during 1943,	2685

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The Mountlands.

Number of children who attended for 1st time under 1 yr.	302
Total number of children weighed under 1 year,	7191
Number who attended for the 1st time between 1 & 5 yrs.	21
Total number weighed between 1 & 5 years,	<u>4703</u>
Total number weighed,	<u>11894</u>

Number of individual cases from outside districts who attended for the 1st time under 1 year,	9
do. do. between 1 & 5 years,	3
Total attendances under 1 year,	69
" " between 1 & 5 years,	53
Number of evacuees attending under 1 year,	22
" " " " between 1 & 5 years,	38

There were 148 sessions held during the year, making an average attendance at each session of 80.
Total number weighed during 1943, 10,525.
Average attendance at each session 71 for 148 sessions.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

This Clinic is held on the second and fourth Tuesday each month.
Number of expectant mothers attending for first time 133
Total number of attendances, 296
There were 24 sessions held during the year, making an average attendance of 12 per session.
Total number of attendances during 1943, 304.
Average number per session, 12 for 24 sessions.

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

This Clinic is held on the third Tuesday in each month.
Total number of attendances, 63
Total 1943, 55

Park Road Centre.

Homestead.

Number of children who attended for 1st time under 1 yr.	298
Total number of children weighed under 1 year,	7088
Number who attended for 1st time between 1 & 5 years.	22
Total number weighed between 1 & 5 years.	<u>5415</u>
Total number weighed	<u>12503</u>

Number of individual cases from outside districts who attended for 1st time under 1 year,	28
do. do. between 1 & 5 years	5
Total attendances under 1 year,	338
" " between 1 & 5 years,	14
Number of evacuees attending under 1 year,	15
" " " " between 1 & 5 years,	25

There were 200 sessions held during the year, making an average attendance at each session of 62.
Total number weighed during 1943, 11,155.
There were 200 sessions held, making an average of 55 per session.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS' ACTS, 1908 & 1932.

Number of foster mothers on the register at the end of yr.	1
" " children " " " " " " " "	1

Number of cases removed from register,	2
" " new cases added to register,	Nil.
Total visits paid	<u>19</u>

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (REGULATION) ACT, 1939.

Number of persons who gave notice under section 7(3) during the year,	14
Total number of children adopted under the section during the year,	9

IMMUNISATION CLINIC.

The above Clinic has been held once each month at both Centres on Saturday mornings.

The number completely immunised at 31st December 1944 was -
Mountlands 260. Homestead 198. Total 458.

Total 1943, 738.

I wish to express my appreciation of the work of the Voluntary Helpers at the Clinics and request that the thanks of the Committee be conveyed to them.

H. W. BARDSLEY,

Senior Health Visitor.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

During 1944, notifications of Infectious Diseases are as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	65 cases
Pneumonia	36 cases
Diphtheria	7 cases
Erysipelas	18 cases
Puerperal Pyrexia	4 cases
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3 cases
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1 case
Whooping Cough	21 cases
Measles	234 cases

From the German Prisoner-of-War Camp there were notified:-

Scarlet Fever	1 case
Diphtheria	1 case
Paratyphoid B. Fever	2 cases

Scabies.

Sixteen cases of Scabies, who had attended the Skin Hospital in Manchester, were notified to me by the Medical Officer of Health of Manchester. Domiciliary visits were made to offer facilities for the sterilisation of bedding and underclothing.

Water Supply.

The water supply of the area has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity. It is entirely a piped supply provided by the Corporation of Manchester. No complaints have been received and no bacteriological examinations have been made.

TUBERCULOSIS - New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15	-	1	5	4	-	-	-	-
15 to 25	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
25 to 35	3	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
35 to 45	3	3	2	2	3	-	-	-
45 to 55	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
55 to 65	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	18	7	8	9	8	2	-	-

I have pleasure in acknowledging the valuable assistance given me by the Officers of the Health Department, particularly the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Senior Health Visitor.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. REID DUNCAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.